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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Applicant: Bell

Serial No.: 09/448,253

Filed: November 24, 1999

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR AUTHORIZED
COMPRESSION OF DIGITIZED MUSIC

Art Unit: 3621

Examiner: Sherr

AM9-99-0122

January 22, 2003
750 B STREET, Suite 3120
San Diego, CA 92101

Official

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTIONCommissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

FAX RECEIVED

JAN 23 2003

GROUP 3600

Dear Sir:

✓ In response to the Office Action dated January 15, 2003, the following remarks are submitted. All pending claims have been rejected as being unpatentable over Ryan in view of Pham et al. and further in view of Lane et al.

As pointed out in the previous response, while all pending independent claims require permitting either recording or compression, or both, of data such as music *only* if a digital signature associated with the music matches an authorized signature, Ryan fails to contemplate preventing either recording or compression if signatures do not match. Lane et al. has been introduced in the latest rejection to supply this missing teaching from Ryan.

But as pointed out in the last response, Ryan explicitly teaches *always* permitting recording regardless of signature match: "The Conditional Play System does not attempt to prevent CD-recorders from copying

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